

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Patent Application No. 10/585,385

Confirmation No. 2546

Applicant: DeFrees et al.

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Customer No. 23460

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 8 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 21 of this paper.